

## **SOCIAL CARE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)**

**Members Present:**

**2 November 2017**

**Chairperson:** Councillor L.M.Purcell

**Councillors:** A.Llewelyn, A.P.H.Davies, C.Galsworthy,  
H.N.James, J.Miller, S.Paddison, S.H.Reynolds  
and D.Whitelock

**Officers In Attendance** A.Bradshaw, S.Harvey, J.Hodges, A.Jarrett,  
I.Oliver, Mrs.A.Thomas, S. Curran, A.Harvey,  
Ms.M.Selby and Mrs.J.Woodman-Ralph

**Cabinet Invitees:** Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.D.Richards

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1. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER 17**

The Committee noted the minutes.

2. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTIONS REGISTER 2017/18.**

The Committee requested that Adult Safeguarding and Quality Assurance be added to the Forward Work Programme.

The Committee requested that a Task and Finish Group in relation to Direct Payments be undertaken by the Committee.

The Committee then noted the Forward Work Programme.

3. **URGENT ITEM**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained within Minute No 3 below, the Chairman agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason:

Due to the time element.

3. Urgent Report of the Head of Social Work Services and the Western Bay Programme Director on the Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme Update.

Members asked whether the Multi Agency Placement Support Service (MAPPS) would work in a similar way to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and if service users could expect to experience the same delays in accessing the service? Officers explained that they are working closely with ABMU to try to resolve the issues with the CAMHS service but that MAPPS is for children who are in the care of the Local Authority only so there should not be the same issues. Officers agreed to submit a report by the end of the financial year detailing what the MAPPS remit is.

Members asked how the progress of the Integrated Autism Service is monitored. It was explained that the reports on the different workstreams would be brought to Committee to assist Members understand the progress. Members enquired if the development work of the Integrated Autism Service included the involvement of Swansea University. It was stated that they have not been involved but confirmed that they would be contacted to discuss potential for future engagement.

The report states that the Western Bay Programme mirrors the footprint of the Health Board and the Committee sought assurance that this did not mean a duplication of work. Officers explained that continuous discussion takes place to ensure that this is not the case and clarified that the Western Bay Programme covers the same demographical area as the Health Board.

Members asked for further information in relation to the mechanisms that are in place for ensuring that decisions are being taken forward locally. It was clarified that all decisions are subject to each Council/Health Board individual scrutiny processes and issues are escalated to the Officer and Cabinet Members representatives on the Regional Board. The Committee wondered what the situation would be in the event that a Local Authority did not agreeing with decisions

taken by partner Authorities .Officers explained that discussion would take place between partners and a compromise and solution agreed.

Members expressed concern at the potential impact on the Western Bay partnership if Bridgend leaves the Western Bay Partnership as is proposed. Officers stated that the Partnership would need to adjust within the parameters of its remaining partners and presently a mapping out exercise is taking place. It was noted that nothing has been confirmed at the moment in relation to the position of Bridgend and that some of the collaborative projects would continue as they are currently.

Members asked for clarification on what the word 'frail' means in the context of the circulated report. Officers agreed that the word 'frail' is used across Adult Services and can mean different things across the service. Officers committed to finding out what the definition is for the purpose of this report and will circulate to Members via email.

The Committee asked what happens after the Step Up/ Step Down Assessment package has finished and after the 6 week period is complete. It was explained that a number of other services are then made available dependant on the need of the service user and after the assessment period is complete.

Third Sector Brokerage was discussed and the Committee queried if this referred service users to community based support. They were informed that a mapping exercise is currently taking place to understand what is available in communities. A Strategic Plan will be brought to the next meeting for Members consideration which will include what is available and where the gaps are of provision. The Chair asked Members to highlight to Officers any organisations that provide support in their ward areas to assist with this mapping out exercise.

The Committee sought assurance on the robustness of the Western Bay Collaborative and asked for further information in relation to the Communication Strategy. Officers explained that communication is challenging between different and separate organisations but agreed that it is essential between partners and essential with service users also. It was explained that Partners meet to discuss concerns and that information

gathering events are held within communities to find out what improvements can be made and what will make a difference. Officers committed to ensuring that Members are kept updated on these events.

Members asked if there was a legal requirement for Neath Port Talbot to participate with the Western Bay Programme. Legal Officers explained that under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 the Authority has a duty to work collaboratively and to ensure that the costs are to be resourced appropriately. It was highlighted that if the Authority does not fulfil its obligations it could be taken to judicial review. Officers also explained that each partner gains positively out of the collaborative by sharing good and bad practices and information and by working collaboratively financial savings are realised. Members noted the many successful projects that are under the Western Bay Collaborative such as the Adoption Service, Youth Offending Team and the Safeguarding Children Board. Members welcomed the update and hearing about some of the positive work that is being progressed under the Western Bay programme

Following scrutiny it was agreed that the report be noted.

#### 4. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

##### Cabinet Board Proposals

#### 3.1 Western Bay Commissioning Strategy for Care Homes for Older People 2016-2025

The Committee received the proposed Western Bay Commissioning Strategy for Care Homes for Older People for 2016-2025 as contained within the circulated report.

The Committee initially queried why paragraphs had been omitted in the report before them at this meeting that had been contained within the previous report for their consideration in September 2017 which referred to the closure and new build of residential care homes. Officers explained that in the original report references were made to information that was not for consideration at that meeting in September and had caused

overall confusion so the information was omitted from the report in front of Members at this meeting.

The Committee queried what was meant by 'Quality of Life' as mentioned throughout the circulated report. Officers explained that part of the initial assessment that is carried out by Social Workers of the needs of service users include consideration of their quality of life and it was agreed that this is different for all people. It is used as part of the measure for monitoring purposes and is contained in the regional quality framework guidance which is set across the region.

Members asked what measures monitored whether the workforce was strong and motivated as stated in the circulated report. They learnt that retention and recruitment of staff is a measure; Members noted the difficulties in maintaining a strong workforce and that work is needed to encourage people to work in the sector and that an action plan has been developed to specifically target recruitment as a regional initiative. It was highlighted that presently there is a shortage of specialist care facilities within Neath Port Talbot and work is progressing with private providers to try to resolve this. In addition, there is a piece of work being undertaken locally to explore what service users or families need to contribute to care costs. A report will be brought to a future meeting for Members consideration.

Members agreed that there is a need to consider all alternative ways of delivering care and officers explained that any parties interested in providing models of care or taking over any vacant residential care buildings to provide that care would be considered. Focus is presently on developing a marketing strategy which will include working with social enterprise ventures and Members were pleased to note that discussions are currently taking place with Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service.

Members queried how the Authority monitors services users whose care is provided via independent living and whether there was any data highlighting the outcomes experienced. Officers explained that presently there are no indicators to capture this data and there is no evidence available to identify what measure could be put in place to capture the data. Also, the majority of service users choose to have their care provided at home to enable them remain independent. Members asked

that this be considered as part of the planned Direct Payments Task & Finish Group.

Members queried the different sub groups which were cited in the Care Homes Commissioning Strategy but did not appear on the Western Bay governance diagram in the earlier item and officers explained that there was a governance arrangement within the Community Services programme within Western Bay and agreed to circulate it.

The Committee enquired if there were any plans to extend the current provision of the Extra Care Sheltered Housing Schemes and were informed that this is currently being looked at and that discussions are taking place with Registered Social Landlords on the number of facilities and the criteria for residents within these extra care settings.

Following scrutiny the Committee were overall in support of the recommendation to be considered at Cabinet Board with the following amendment:

The Commissioning Strategy for Care Homes for Older People 2016-2025 and the local Implementation Plan for Neath Port Talbot Council be approved subject to elements of the implementation plan being brought back retrospectively to Members for their continued information and ongoing monitoring.

### 3.3 Partnership Agreement for Western Bay Programme Infrastructure

The Committee received the Partnership Agreement for Western Bay Programme Infrastructure as contained within the circulated report.

Officers restated that it is a legal requirement to resource the Western Bay collaborative work otherwise the Council could be legally challenged.

Members asked for an explanation in relation to the increase in the contribution from Neath Port Talbot and queried if this is due to the current economic climate. Officers explained that the increase was due to 1 additional staff post and that overall the

staffing costs have decreased. Neath Port Talbot's contribution is 20% of the overall costs this would cover if any overspend or underspend was incurred..

Following scrutiny the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

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